

1 HJR40
2 204986-2
3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Jones (S), Bracy, Brown
4 (C), Gaston, Pringle, Wilcox, Stringer and Simpson
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 18-FEB-20

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREOLE
4 STEAM FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE.
5

6 WHEREAS, Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 was
7 established in April of 1819 as the first volunteer fire
8 company in Mobile, Alabama; and

9 WHEREAS, it was created for the purpose of
10 protecting life and property and played a vital role in
11 safeguarding Mobile during its early stages as a city; it
12 served as a model for the implementation of other volunteer
13 firehouses established between 1819 and 1888; and

14 WHEREAS, Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 was founded
15 and operated by Creoles, a community of mixed-race persons of
16 French, Spanish, African, and Native American ancestry, who
17 also formed their own schools, churches, businesses, and
18 social organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 used
20 horse-drawn equipment until 1924; its volunteers were usually
21 first to arrive on the scene to many blazes because it
22 utilized retired racehorses, including "Jack," the horse whose
23 unique sense of smell could lead them directly to fires; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1869, a two-story brick building
25 designed by architect James H. Hutchisson, was erected at 13

1 North Dearborn Street to accommodate Creole Steam Fire Company
2 No. 1; the firehouse featured an arched central bay and
3 full-height second-floor windows, and was considered the
4 center of Creole Society until 1926 when Central Fire Station
5 was built in Mobile; and

6 WHEREAS, Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 volunteers
7 became some of the original professional firefighters of the
8 Mobile Fire Department created in September of 1888; and

9 WHEREAS, Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 was
10 virtually absorbed into the Mobile Fire Department in 1888, it
11 was allowed to continue having some autonomy to hire its own
12 employees until the company was disbanded in 1970; and

13 WHEREAS, the historic firehouse building with its
14 fireman's pole is still intact, and is currently a private
15 residence; this landmark structure is along the Dauphin Street
16 Historic Walking Tour and the Dora Franklin Finley
17 African-American Heritage Trail; and

18 WHEREAS, a bicentennial celebration was held at the
19 Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 on December 23, 2019; honorees
20 included the following retired firefighters who transitioned
21 from the company to the Mobile Fire Department: Cecil Bush,
22 Michael Chestang, Claude Doublet, Tony Gayle, Raymond
23 Henningburg, and Edward Otis; and

24 WHEREAS, other firefighters who were among the last
25 to serve at Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1 were the late

1 Vernon Chestang, Vincent Collins, Eugene Fisher, Henry Hafler,
2 Leon Petite, Clovis Reid, Govan Trenier, Jerome Treiner, Mark
3 Trenier, Sr., Paul Trenier, Alfred Watson, Harold Woods, and
4 Willie Wright; now therefore

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That The Creole Steam Fire Company
7 No. 1 volunteer fire station is recognized and commended on
8 its 200th year anniversary and its important historical role
9 in Mobile and the State of Alabama.

